

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03694 280912Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /121 W

----- 069956

R 280845Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4773

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 3694

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, SA

SUBJ: SAUDI REACTION TO KISSINGER APPOINTMENT

1. APPOINTMENT OF DR. KISSINGER AS NEW SECRETARY OF STATE GIVEN PROMINENT, AND REASONABLY BALANCED, COVERAGE ON FRONT PAGES ALL FOUR LEADING JIDDA DAILIES. KISSINGER STATEMENT CONCERNING HIS INTENTION TO "CONDUCT FOREIGN POLICY OF US REGARDLESS OF RELIGIOUS AND NATIONAL HERITAGE" GIVEN DUE ATTENTION.

2. AL BILAD COMMENTARY WAS DECIDEDLY POSITIVE, NOTING WITH KISSINGER IN DRIVER SEAT STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE ABLE WEIGH IN ON POLICY MATTERS WITH WHITE HOUSE TO EXTENT IT HAD NOT SINCE DAYS OF SECRETARY DULLES.

3. UKAZ ON AUG 23 REACTED NEGATIVELY, BUT TWO DAYS LATER HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SECOND THOUGHTS AND PRAISED KISSINGER AS INITIATOR OF ACTION WHICH "SUCCESSFULLY EASED WORLD TENSION." PAPER ADDED

KISSINGER'S RELIGION MIGHT INDEED ENABLE HIM BE ACCEPTED BY
"JEWS AS THEIR SPOKESMAN AND BY OTHER PARTIES (AS THEIRS) IN
HIS CAPACITY AS SECRETARY OF STATE."

4. SAUDIS WITH WHOM EMBOFFS HAVE HAD CONTACT HAVE IN GENERAL
VIEWED APPOINTMENT AS NET PLUS; DESPITE QUESTION OF JEWISH
BACKGROUND, THEY BELIEVE ON BALANCE KISSINGER LIKELY PROVE MORE
INTERESTED IN FINDING SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST
CRISIS THAN IN LETTING RELIGION HAMPER THIS GOAL. FONMIN
OFFICIAL REVIEWED PROS AND CONS OF APPOINTMENT, AND THEN COM-
MENTED REALISTICALLY THAT, IN VIEW OF USG'S RELUCTANCE PUT
PRESSURE ON IJRAEL IN ANY CASE, APPOINTMENT NOT LIKELY EFFECT
MIDDLE EAST SITUATION ONE WAY OR OTHER.
THACHER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA03694
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730811/aaaaahzs.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <14-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI REACTION TO KISSINGER APPOINTMENT
TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, SA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005